

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 22 and 24 are pending in the application, of which claims 1 and 13 are independent. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1 to 6, 8 to 12, 21 and 22 were rejected over U.S. Patent No. 6,188,307 (Katsuki); claims 13 and 15 to 20 were rejected over U.S. Patent No. 5,867,083 (Takeuchi) in view of Katsuki; and claim 14 was rejected over Katsuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,188,307 (Smith).

As shown above, independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to clarify that the housing has an upper side that completely covers the first electrical component and the second electrical component and that protects the first electrical component and the second electrical component from a contact voltage. The applied art is not understood to disclose or to suggest this feature of the claims.

As previously explained, Figs. 4 and 5 of Katsuki show an insulating case 21, two PTC-thermistor elements 25, 26, two protruding terminals 30, 31, and two spring terminals 32, 33. Spring terminals include electrodes 32a, 33a, which are on the upper side of the thermistor apparatus, and thus cover the openings of cavities 21a and 21b. Thus, Katsuki's insulating case contains areas that expose electrodes 32a and 33a, which pass a contact voltage to thermistor devices 25 and 26 (the alleged counterpart to the claims' first and second electrical components). Furthermore external connection portions 32b and 32c are folded along the surface of case 21.¹ Accordingly, Katsuki's insulating case 21 does not completely cover the first electrical

¹ Col. 5, lines 62 to 66

component and the second electrical component and protect the first electrical component and the second electrical component from the contact voltage.

In this regard, page 10 of the Office Action notes that insulating case 21 shows three portions of the upper surface that, if contacted by voltage, would protect the enclosed first and second electrical components. The Office Action further notes that the claims do not require “totally enclosed protection”. However, as amended, claims 1 and 13 recite that the upper side completely covers the first electrical component and the second electrical component and protects the first electrical component and the second electrical component from a contact voltage. These features are clearly not shown in Katsuki as is arguably implicitly indicated by the foregoing statements in the Office Action.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 13 define over Katsuki. Page 6 of the Office Action admits that Takeuchi does not disclose a housing; therefore, Takeuchi does not make up for the foregoing deficiencies of Katsuki vis-à-vis claims 1 and 13. Accordingly, claims 1 and 13 are believed to be allowable.

Former independent claim 24 now depends from claim 1 and partakes of its novelty. Accordingly, claim 24 is also believed to be allowable.

In this regard, each of the dependent claims is also believed to define patentable features of the invention. Each dependent claim partakes of the novelty of its corresponding independent claim and, as such, has not been discussed specifically herein.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or

concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

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Respectfully submitted,

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